THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhardwaj, one thing more. Under the Act, they put the property of husband and wife together. It generally happens that the wife has to sell her property so that they don't come under the ceiling. The wife should be independently allowed to hold her property.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I will not put the women into a disadvantageous position. Whatever she inherits or gets as *istridhan* is her property. *istridhan* totally belongs to the woman. The husband cannot take anything out of it. This is a well established law. But, after the marriage, when she enters her husband's house, I think, it makes good sense that whatever property they get, they should hold that property jointly. Even we did it when the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. That is why I said, I would like to discuss it with the lady Members.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): What are going to be the mechanisms? जो सजेशन आपके है वह वीणा वर्मा जी के बिल में शामिल किए जाएंगे, यह होगा न? आपका बिल नहीं होगा, इन्हीं के बिल में शामिल किया जाए।

جو سجیشن آپ کے سامنے ہیں ویناورما جی کے بل میں شامل کئے جائیں۔ یہ ہوگا نہ۔ آپ کا بل نہیں ہوگا۔ انہی کے بل میں شامل کیا جائے۔

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: It is under my right to do that. I will persuade her. You don't worry about it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whichever way you do it, under whoever's Bill it comes, all that we want is that it is enacted into a law to help women. Thank you, Mr. Bhardwaj. We welcome you very much. Now, we will have clarifications ....*(interruptions)*.... I have all the names in a list. You don't have to worry. I will call you according to the order in the list. The fifth name is that of Mr. Gujral.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: I gave yesterday itself in writing.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Bihar): Where is my name?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yours is second. I think I should call Mr. Gujral.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam I have to go somewhere.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of us have to go somewhere. We are parliamentarians. You have also not attended most of the sittings of this session. Mr. Gujral, you please speak.

Clarifications on Statement by Minister Re: Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Bihar): Madam Deputy Chairman, I thank you very much for calling me. As I rise today to seek clarifications, I must say that I feel very sad that in the face of a great challenge posed by Pakistan to the Indian Security, we have not yet been able to have a full-fledged discussion. There is only a statement made by the Minister. We are given an opportunity only to seek some clarifications. I was hoping that the Government would feel concerned. I was hoping that the Government would know at least from the media reports how concerned the nation was. I was hoping that the Prime Minister would himself come to the House and make a statement. It is not because I don't respect the Minister. I have great affection and regard for him. But I think this is what the nation expects the Prime Minister to say. Unfortunately, even when the Prime Minister had spoken, he had chosen to speak in his party meeting rather than in Parliament. This, by itself, is a sad comment on the situation and our response. Now, the statement is, unfortunately, not a statement of the Minister, but it is a statement of the Government. Its operative part is very pathetic. What does it say? We will go to the world. We will tell them. We will expose them. Fine. the issue is the Indian security. The issue is, how do we respond today? The issue is, do we really realise the gravity of the situation?

Four things which happened had coincided straightway. Mr. Nawaz Sharief has made a statement. I will not repeat it. We all know about it. He reiterated it twice. He has chosen to go to PoK to make this statement there which, by itself, is a signal for us about the shape of things to come. We have also seen the German discoveries. Up till now, there are about ten discoveries. I have been seeing the Russian

media. In the Russian media, the suspicion is that it had leaked out not in grams but in much larger quantities. the third coincidence is that today's media tells us that a Saudi diplomat has sought and got asylum in America. What has he said? He said that Saudi Arabia has acquired the nuclear weapons. the fourth coincident—I think this is a very important coincidence—is that Mr. Leventhel has made a statement. Who is Mr. Levelthel? Mr. Leventhel is an American expert on the nuclear situation. He is the author of the Pressler Amendment. He is the main authority on the nuclear situation. He says, Now no doubt is left at all about the situation. The question is not what Pakistan has done. the question is what we are doing. I would also like to point out to you that this confession is not the first thing — the confession of Mr. Nawaz Sharief. Before this, Mr. Khan, who is the mother and father of the nuclear programme of Pakistan, called Mr. Kuldip Nayyar from India as far back as 1988 or 1989 and saw to it that he told him and we heard it from him. Of course, formally he will do it again. Mr. Sharyar, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, went to America in 1991. In Washington, he said, We have a bomb. It is on record. There is no secret about it. Gen. Aslam Beg's article is a long one. Details were given in this article as to how it was done, what had happened, how much capping programme they have and they have not. Also, Mrs. Bhutto, the Prime Minister herself, in 1992 when she was out of office, went to Washington to make an open statement that Pakistan had pursued its nuclear programme behind her back. She said that as Prime Minister she was not told as to what was being done. Aslam Beg, of course, has debunked that claim of Mrs. Bhutto. In his article, he has said, "She knew all the time that the programme is being followed" therefore, Pakistan has now decided—and with a great deal of consideration; it is not an off-the-cuff thing—that it is going to enter into the Nuclear Club. Everyone will now be reconciled to the fact, "Well, they have it." If they have it, well, you reconcile yourself to it. Therefore, now the question arises as to how the Pressler Amendment or the Pressler Law deals with it. You know, Madam, that for the last one year or so, ever since President Clinton has come to power, he has been trying to supply F-16s to Pakistan and resistance to President Clinton on this issue has not come from us or from anybody else, but it has come from the Senate Committee itself. The Senate and Mr. Pressler have not been accepting it. Therefore, now the question is as to what the assessment of the Government is about the American policy. I am talking of the policy of the American Administration. I am not talking of Pressler's policy. the new American Ambassador in New Delhi, three or four weeks before coming here, had appeared before the Senate Committee and when a pointed question was asked as to what the position of Pakistan is, he had said, "I would like to make this statement in private." So, what statement was made by him? Has the Government of India been able to lay its hands on the information given by the Ambassador? The authors of the Pressler Amendment and the American administration are now confronted with a new reality that the bomb is there in Pakistan now and also that M-11 Missiles have been acquired from China and these have been deployed I hope the Government would be able to take us into confidence and tell us whether even when our Missile Programme is being objected to, it is or it is not a fact that Missiles have been deployed in Pakistan; whether it is or it is not a fact that Iran has acquired M-11 Missiles from China and deployed them already in their forces; whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabia—with all the revelations that are coming out now—has also deployed these Missiles.

Madam, Pakistan is calling a meeting of the OIC soon. I think, this exhibition of nuclear power is also aimed at that. Therefore, now all the members of the OIC will look towards Pakistan with a new eye and will try to support them more vehemently now than they have done in the past. What is the assessment of the Government as to what is likely to happen.

Also, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is known to us. It now acquires a new thrust, not because a bomb could be thrown—bomb is not the only thing—but because the terrorists already have sophisticated weapons like rockets, etc. and now a wee bit of uranium added to them could create new problems for us. What do we do? Look at the statement, Madam, as I said in the beginning, to say, We will tell the world;